

Date: Thu, 7 Jan 93 03:36:18 PST
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #31
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Thu, 7 Jan 93 Volume 93 : Issue 31

Today's Topics:

 Daily Solar Geophysical Data Broadcast for 06 January
 Distinct Checks
 ICOM 751 remote control
 Is there a FAQ on ham-radio
 Licensing changes for change of address?
 Ramsey Foxhound
 rec.radio.amateur.misc Frequently Asked Questions (Part 1 of 3)
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Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 7 Jan 93 09:08:36 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Daily Solar Geophysical Data Broadcast for 06 January
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

!!BEGIN!! (1.0) S.T.D. Solar Geophysical Data Broadcast for DAY 006, 01/06/93
10.7 FLUX=131 90-AVG=139 SSN=126 BKI=3432 2222 BAI=011
BGND-XRAY=B2.7 FLU1=2.7E+06 FLU10=9.9E+03 PKI=3333 3222 PAI=011
 BOU-DEV=039,044,026,016,019,012,019,010 DEV-AVG=023 NT SWF=00:000
 XRAY-MAX= B6.7 @ 0025UT XRAY-MIN= B2.4 @ 0753UT XRAY-AVG= B3.3
 NEUTN-MAX= +002% @ 1425UT NEUTN-MIN= -002% @ 1315UT NEUTN-AVG= -0.0%
 PCA-MAX= +0.1DB @ 2335UT PCA-MIN= -0.4DB @ 0955UT PCA-AVG= -0.0DB
 BOUTF-MAX=55427NT @ 0213UT BOUTF-MIN=55395NT @ 1824UT BOUTF-AVG=55415NT
 GOES7-MAX=P:+111NT@ 1831UT GOES7-MIN=N:+003NT@ 1117UT G7-AVG=+079,+029,+010
 GOES6-MAX=P:+133NT@ 1830UT GOES6-MIN=E:-010NT@ 2216UT G6-AVG=+096,-001,+039

FLUXFCST=STD:135,140,145;SESC:135,140,145 BAI/PAI-FCST=010,010,015/012,012,015
KFCST=2233 3322 2233 3322 27DAY-AP=015,011 27DAY-KP=3233 4332 1224 2433
WARNINGS=
ALERTS=**245STRM:0502-1004UTC
!!END-DATA!!

Date: 7 Jan 1993 05:27:38 GMT
From: ucsd.edu!brian@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Distinct Checks
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

A SPARK GAP TRANSMITTER?

Arrgh! Let's celebrate the FUTURE of ham radio, not the dead past!

Like maybe a satellite?
- Brian

Date: Thu, 7 Jan 1993 08:20:11 GMT
From: mcsun!dxcern!frode@uunet.uu.net
Subject: ICOM 751 remote control
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I have an old IC-751 that I have decided to control from the RS-232 port of my PC. To do that I need the ICOM EX309 parallel to CI-IV (parallel) interface and the UX-14 CI-IV (parallel) to CI-V (serial) interface plus another TTL to RS232 level converter. Apart from being a bit expensive, I find it a rather crummy solution and I have decided to brew my own interface by going directly from the logic board to RS232. To help me understand the protocol in use I would be interested in getting hold of the circuit diagram for the EX309 and UX-14. As far as I have heard the EX309 only consists of two 8bit latches and I guess the UX14 will contain a shift register or two to do the serializing bit. Any help with diagrams or other hints is very welcome.

73 de Frode, LA2RL / HB9CHL

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*

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*

Date: 7 Jan 93 04:50:06 GMT

From: news.columbia.edu!cunixf.cc.columbia.edu!eew1@RUTGERS.EDU

Subject: Is there a FAQ on ham-radio

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Did anyone compile a list of FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions) on ham-radio?

If not, I would like to find out how I can get into ham-radio.

I have a couple of questions:

1. How do I get a license?
2. What kind of equipment would I need?
3. I remember seeing something like "Ham-Radio Buyer's Guide" (published by Popular Electronics, I think) on newstand. Does anyone know how often this mag is published?

Thanks

Date: 6 Jan 93 17:57:45 EST

From: usc!zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!pacific.mps.ohio-state.edu!ohstpy!miavx1!

miavx3.mid.muohio.edu!clmorgan@network.UCSD.EDU

Subject: Licensing changes for change of address?

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Jan5.034427.22541@cs.brown.edu>, omh@cs.brown.edu (Owen M. Hartnett) writes:

> I've been licensed for quite some time, but I listen much more than
> transmit. I've moved recently and I'm wondering if Form 630 is the
> correct one to let the FCC know about my change of address.

>

> Sorry to ask such a dumb question, but have you tried getting a form 630
> from the FCC lately. You go through a voice mail hurdle (at long distance)
> then they never send the form. They put you through the hassle then ignore
> you.

>

> Thanks,

> _owen

>

> Owen Hartnett omh@cs.brown.edu

> "FAITH, n. Belief without evidence in what is told by one who speaks
> without knowledge, of things without parallel."

> -Ambrose Bierce - The Devil's Dictionary

The correct form is 610.

73 >< Carl
K8NHE

Date: 7 Jan 1993 09:05:40 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!overload.lbl.gov!agate!usenet.ins.cwru.edu!
cleveland.Freenet.Edu!bj368@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Ramsey Foxhound
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I am looking for info on experience with the Ramsey kit
the Foxhound Direction Finder Kit DF-1 in the
Ramsey catalog.
If anyone has built this I would like to know how well it
is working, what range of transmitters can be located, etc.

--
Capt. Kirk: let's head for that planet, third from the sun, it
looks promising.... |-)

Date: 7 Jan 93 11:09:02 GMT
From: charon.amdahl.com!amdahl!uts.amdahl.com@uunet.uu.net
Subject: rec.radio.amateur.misc Frequently Asked Questions (Part 1 of 3)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Posted-By: auto-faq 2.4
Archive-name: ham-radio-faq/part1
Revision: 3.2 11/02/92 16:31:13

Rec.radio.amateur.misc Frequently Asked Questions
Part 1 - Introduction to the FAQ and Amateur Radio

This is a regular posting of frequently-asked questions (FAQ) about Amateur
Radio, also known as Ham Radio. It is intended to summarize some common
questions on the rec.radio.amateur.misc newsgroup and Info-Hams mail list
as well as to help beginners get started.

Please provide a copy of the FAQ to any new or soon-to-be Hams you know.

Regular FAQ postings can help save network bandwidth and maintain a good signal-to-noise ratio in the newsgroup. However, they can't do it alone - you, the reader, have to use them. If you are a new user, please print and review the FAQ articles and look at the instructions in the news.newusers newsgroup before posting any articles. If you are an experienced user, please help by refraining from answering frequently-asked questions on the newsgroup if they are already answered by the FAQ articles. Instead, send e-mail to the user who asked the question. (It will be helpful if you include the part of the FAQ that answers their question, but not the whole thing.)

To reduce the size of each article, the FAQ information is posted in 3 parts:

Part 1 - Introduction to the FAQ and Amateur Radio

Part 2 - Amateur Radio Organizations, Services, and Information Sources

Part 3 - Amateur Radio Advanced and Technical Questions

Table of Contents

Dates indicate last modification.

Part 1 - Introduction to the FAQ and Amateur Radio

- ** Table of Contents (11/92)
- ** Introduction to the FAQ (11/92)
 - * How to Contribute to the FAQ Articles (7/92)
 - * Acknowledgements (7/92)
 - * Notes on "Netiquette" (11/92)
- ** What is Amateur Radio? (11/92)
- ** Who can become a ham in the United States? (11/92)
- ** Where can I locate information and books on Amateur Radio? (4/92)
- ** How much does it cost? (4/92)
- ** Where can I take the tests? (pre-4/92)
- ** What are the tests like? (4/92)
- ** What can I do with a ham radio license? (5/92)
- ** What can't I do with an Amateur Radio license? (pre-4/92)
- ** I'm interested, who will help me? (11/92)
- ** Should I build my own equipment or antenna? (11/92)

Part 2 - Amateur Radio Organizations, Services, and Information Sources

- ** Where can I find Ham Radio information with a computer? (11/92)
 - * The ARRL e-mail server (new 11/92)
 - * The Internet File Transfer Protocol (FTP) (11/92)
 - * Access to FTP archives via electronic mail (11/92)
 - * The Info-Hams mail list: rec.radio.amateur.misc by mail (11/92)
 - * Telephone BBS's with Ham-related information (11/92)
 - * Callsign servers and geographical name servers (11/92)
 - * FTP access to FCC Part 97 and FCC Amateur Radio question pools (11/92)
 - * Lists of radio modifications and extensions (11/92)
- ** Can I send ARRL or W5YI electronic mail? (11/92)

- ** "Why doesn't the ARRL do...?" (11/92)
- ** What magazines are available for Ham Radio? (pre-4/92)
- ** How do I use the incoming and outgoing QSL bureau? (11/92)
- ** Are there any news groups for CAP? (11/92)
- ** What's the name of the QRP club that issues QRP numbers? (pre-4/92)
- ** How do I become a 10-10 member? (pre-4/92)
- ** How do I join MARS? (10/92)
- ** How do I join RACES? (pre-4/92)
- ** What organizations are available to help handicapped hams? (pre-4/92)
- ** I am looking for a specific ham, can anyone help me find him? (pre-4/92)
- ** Can I post my neat new ham related program on rec.radio.amateur.misc? (pre-4/92)
- ** Where can I get ham radio software for my computer? (4/92)
- ** Are there Dialup News services or BBSs for Amateur Radio? (4/92)
- ** Where can I find VE sessions in my local area? (6/92)
- ** Why isn't XXX available electronically? (4/92)

Part 3 - Amateur Radio Advanced and Technical Questions

- ** What are the different US amateur classes and what can each of them do? (pre-4/92)
- ** What is the best way to learn Morse Code? (10/92)
- ** What is the standard for measuring Morse code speed? (pre-4/92)
- ** I'm confused. What do all those abbreviations mean??? (5/92)
- ** What do all those "tones" mean? (pre-4/92)
- ** Where can I learn more about Amateur Radio if I live outside the US? (4/92)
- ** How can I get a "reciprocal license" if I am a licensed ham from another country or if I am a FCC licensed ham who wants to operate in another country (on vacation)? (11/92)
- ** My apartment or housing complex does not allow outdoor antennas, now what do I do? (pre-4/92)
- ** I got TVI...HELP!!! (pre-4/92)
- ** Did you know that you can get college credit for being a ham? (pre-4/92)
- ** On what frequencies do JPL and GSFC retransmit the shuttle audio? (10/92)
- ** Can I take my HT on an airplane and operate it if I get the permission of the captain? (4/92)
- ** How do I modify my current Amateur license? (4/92)
- ** I'm confused about XXX, should I ask the FCC? (4/92)
- ** Is there any information on antique radios? (pre-4/92)
- ** Where can I buy vacuum tubes? (pre-4/92)
- ** What do I need to get started in packet radio? (5/92)
- ** What do I need to get started in satellite communications? (pre-4/92)
- ** What is available to get started in ATV, SSTV and WEFAX? (5/92)
- ** What are these contests I sometimes hear, and how do I participate? (7/92)

**** Introduction to the FAQ**

*** How to Contribute to the FAQ Articles**

We accept suggestions from the Amateur Radio community. Please consider the following criteria:

- is it a commonly asked question?
 - will its inclusion help reduce the usage of network bandwidth?
 - how useful is it to beginning Hams or to the majority of Hams?
- Contributions don't have to meet all of these but the minimum is one. We actually only ask that you consider these before contributing.

We can't necessarily include every question or every topic - the network simply doesn't have enough bandwidth to carry that much information. Besides, the point is that we're trying to conserve network bandwidth. You can find the locations of much more information by referring to the "Index to the rec.radio.amateur.* Supplemental Archives" posted monthly by Paul Schleck KD3FU.

If you suggest a question for this FAQ, please include the answer. You'll get credit for your contribution and you'll speed up the process of getting the information ready for distribution.

If you feel your contribution is sufficient to meet the considerations shown above, send it to hamradio-faq@uts.amdahl.com so that it will reach all the FAQ coordinators: (listed in alphabetical order)

Ed Hare	KA1CV	ehare@arrl.org	(Newington, CT, USA)
Ian Klufft (editor)	KD6EUI	iklufft@uts.amdahl.com	(San Jose, CA, USA)
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Derek Wills	AA5BT	oo7@astro.as.utexas.edu	(Austin, TX, USA)

*** Acknowledgements**

All questions listed as modified "pre-4/92" are entirely Diana Carlson's work or her editing of a contributor's work. Diana established this FAQ. She is now one of the larger group that maintains it but we didn't want her effort to be lost in the crowd.

*** Notes on "Netiquette"**

The rec.radio.amateur.misc newsgroup and Info-Hams mail list have a large daily volume of traffic. They can operate more efficiently if

the following netiquette guidelines are followed. Please take them seriously.

- * When posting a followup article, ALWAYS try to minimize the number of lines of quoted material from the original article.
- * As a general rule when you try to determine whether to reply to someone by e-mail or with a followup article, remember to "praise in public, criticize in private." It's OK to disagree technically but be careful not to attack the person with whom you disagree. Also, be careful with your use of the word "you" when posting a follow-up article. Many unnecessary flame wars have started that way.
- * Use a descriptive subject. For example, a message subject of "Ham Radio" tells the reader NOTHING about the contents of your article since the whole newsgroup is about Ham Radio. Other examples of subjects which are so broad that they become useless could include, "Help," "A Question," "Antennas," or "Frequencies." Maybe "Books on Antennas?" or "Where can I find Repeater Frequencies?" would be better, for example. Remember, in a busy newsgroup a lot of users decide which articles to read from the subject line alone. If you post, don't deprive yourself of an audience!
- * Before answering a question, check if the FAQ adequately answers it or if someone else already answered it. If you have more to add, make sure to reference either the FAQ or the related articles.
- * If a user posts a question which is directly answered by the FAQ, there is no need to post an answer - the information is already available on the newsgroup. Instead, just send an e-mail message which politely explains where to find the FAQ. They will probably appreciate it if you include the answer to their question. (Don't send a "nastygram" - that would just discourage future participation.)
- * Pay attention to the size of your audience - use the "Distribution:" header. If you leave it blank, your message will go to every civilized country in the world and occupy disk space in all news systems in all those places. If that's what you intend, that's fine but make sure your article is relevant outside your country. (In particular, Hams should already know there is more to the world than just their own country.)
- * If you have an item for sale, please limit the distribution area so that, for example, an article about a radio for sale in New Jersey won't get to California or Europe. If you wish, you may cross-post your for-sale article to rec.radio.swap.
- * Software sources should be posted to either alt.sources, comp.sources.misc, or comp.sources.* for a specific machine type. Software binaries should be posted to the appropriate subgroup of comp.binaries.

** What is Amateur Radio?

Amateur Radio is a non-commercial radio communication service whose primary aims are public service, technical training and experimenta-

tion, and communication between private persons. Amateur Radio operators are commonly called hams. Hams often communicate with each other recreationally but also provide communications for others at public events or in times of emergency or disaster.

** Who can become a ham in the United States?

Anyone who is not a representative of a foreign government can be an Amateur Radio operator in the USA. There are tests that you must pass to get a license, however the tests are not insurmountable.

** Where can I locate information and books on Amateur Radio?

Your local Radio Shack sells some ham radios and Amateur Radio license books. Books can also be obtained through the mail from ham radio organizations, such as ARRL in Newington, CT (203-666-1541) and W5YI in Dallas, TX (1-800-669-9594). There may be one or two ham radio stores in the local area (ie, within 50 miles). Try looking in the Yellow Pages under Radio Communications.

For the Novice license, get a Novice License manual, plus 5-word-per-minute Morse code tapes, costing around \$25. For the Technician license, get a combined Novice and Technician License manual, and an FCC Rules manual, costing around \$32. The FCC Rules manual is a good idea for Novice also, but not necessary, since the Novice License manual contains all the FCC Rules that are required for the Novice License.

The ARRL Education Activities Department has several programs to help amateurs (or prospective amateurs) to get started. Ask for a "New prospect package" available free of charge, from ARRL HQ, Educational Activities Department, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

** How much does it cost?

To take the Novice tests, it's free. To take the Technician or higher class tests, there is a small charge (around \$5-\$6 currently) to cover copying costs and running the testing sessions. The cost of a radio is really dependent on what you want to do. You can make your own radio and antenna for under \$150. You can buy a used single-band radio for \$150-\$300. Or you can buy a new multi-band multi-mode radio with all the doodads for \$300-\$3000. I'd suggest you learn more about ham radio, talk to local hams, find out what you want to do with ham radio first.

** Where can I take the tests?

The Novice tests can be given by any two qualified hams of General class license or above. The Technician tests and all higher class license tests are given by three qualified Volunteer Examiners (VEs) who volunteer their time.

To locate an ARRL testing session in your area, you can contact ARRL at 203-666-1541 x282.

**** What are the tests like?**

First off, come prepared to VE sessions. Bring: TWO forms of ID, one of which has a picture on it; a calculator (if necessary); a pen and two pencils; the applicable examination fee (around \$5-\$6 for 1992); the original AND a copy of your current Amateur Radio license (if you have one); the original AND a copy of any CSCEs for tests you've already passed (if you have any).

Each of the written tests (Novice, Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra) are generally a multiple choice test of approximately one-tenth of the question pool. For example, if the question pool is approximately 300 questions, then the test will be a 30-question test. You need to get 75% correct to pass. Note that they truncate to determine the correct number of questions. That means for a 30 question test, you need to get 22 right, which is actually only 73.3%.

Once you've paid the small fee for Technician-Extra tests, it costs no extra to take another test, so I'd suggest you keep taking the next more advanced test until you fail. If you pass the written but not the Morse code (or vice versa) for a specific class license, you have up to one year to take the other test before you would have to retake the written test again. Note that some VEs will not allow you to take the written test unless you've first taken the Morse code test.

The Morse code test is a receiving test only. The test run 5 to 7 minutes. After the test, you are given a 10-question multiple-choice or fill-in-the-blank test. Passing grade is 7 or more. If you fail the 10-question test, the examiner team will examine your copy sheet to see if you have 1 minute of solid copy with no errors. For 5 wpm, that's 25 characters, for 13 wpm, that's 65 characters, for 20 wpm, that's 100 characters. If they can find 1 minute solid copy, you've still passed.

Hints on Morse code tests: Generally, it will be a standard QSO (conversation), and it MUST contain at least one of each of the following:

26 letters A-Z, 10 numbers 0-9, comma (,), period (.), slant or slash (/), question mark (?), double dash prosign (BT), end of message prosign (AR), end of contact prosign (SK).

The letters count as one character, all others count as two characters. There are a couple other prosigns which are worth knowing, but will not be on the test, like "I'm done talking, next" is K, "I'm done talking, back to you" is KN, "Please wait" is AS.

** What can I do with a ham radio license?

There are so many things, it's a difficult question to answer, but here's some ideas:

- * Talk to people in foreign countries.
- * Talk to people (both local and far away) on your drive to work.
- * Help in emergencies by providing communications.
- * Provide communications in parades or walkathons.
- * Help other people become hams.
- * Hook your computer to your radio and communicate by computers.
- * Collect QSL cards (cards from other hams) from all over the United States and foreign countries and receive awards.
- * Participate in contests or Field Day events.
- * Provide radio services to your local Civil Defense organization thru ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) or RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service).
- * Aid members of the US military by joining MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System).
- * Participate in transmitter hunt games and maybe build your own direction-finding equipment.
- * Have someone to talk to on those sleepless nights at home.
- * Receive weather pictures via satellites.
- * Build radios, antennas, learn some electronics and radio theory.
- * Talk to astronauts in space, or use the moon to bounce signals back to people on the Earth.
- * Experiment with Amateur TV (ATV), Slow-Scan TV (SSTV), or send still-frame pictures by facsimile.
- * Experiment with amateur satellite communications.

** What can't I do with an Amateur Radio license?

The most important thing you can't do is transact business of any kind over ham radio. Interference to other hams or services, as well as obscene, profane or indecent language is not tolerated and is illegal. Music and broadcasting are not allowed on ham radio. Some personal conversations may not be appropriate to Amateur Radio. Do you really want the whole world to hear about Aunt Mabel's hemorrhoids?

** I'm interested, who will help me?

There are hams who are willing to become "Elmers" (mentors, helpers) in your local area. Look around and ask local hams. Search out local radio clubs. As well, some people have volunteered to be an Elmer over the Usenet. A list of UseNet Elmers and their e-mail addresses is posted to the newsgroup monthly. If anyone wants to be an Elmer, send e-mail to
elmers-request@unomaha.edu

** Should I build my own equipment or antenna?

"Homebrewing" is a fun and educational part of ham radio. It is a thrill to build your own transmitter and put it on the air. However, building your own receiver can be quite complicated; if you don't have electronics experience, you may want to buy a receiver instead. Most homebrew transmitters are QRP (transmit very low power). That's fine for an experienced ham with a very good antenna, but a Novice ham will just get frustrated. Your first rig, therefore should NOT be a homebrew.

Antennas can be much simpler projects than the transceiver, though some types are also quite involved. Most hams build their own antennas for base station use and buy antennas for mobile (car) use. Most beginner ham books describe how to build different types of antennas. Order of difficulty, from easiest to more difficult, for some common antennas are: wire dipole, Zepp, Yagi, Quad, and Log-Periodic. Books from many sources, including ARRL and several Hams, discuss antennas in depth.

When building or even understanding antennas, it is good to know the relationship between the antenna element length and the frequency or wavelength it is designed for. An antenna performs best at multiples of 1/4 of that wavelength, though 5/8 wave also has beneficial qualities. The wavelength is related to the frequency with the following formula:

wavelength (in meters) = 300 / frequency (in megahertz)

You do not need a huge antenna or tower like ones you may see around your neighborhood. Large beam antennas and 40-foot towers are very expensive. As a beginner, a simple dipole antenna is perfectly adequate. As you gain experience (and money :-), you may want to invest in something bigger.

If you can afford new rigs and antennas, there are many mail order stores that advertise in ham radio magazines. If you want to buy a used rig, the best place is at a "hamfest" (ham flea market). You should take along an experienced ham, since some of the used equipment may be inoperative, overpriced or poor quality. You can also answer ads in ham magazines or posted at ham radio stores, although often, by the time you call, the equipment has already been sold.

Date: 7 Jan 1993 05:29:12 GMT
From: ucsd.edu!brian@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: SUBSCRIBE info-hams
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

From: clueless@mantis.co.uk
To: clueless@mantis.co.uk
Subject: Welcome, clueless user!

Welcome to the Clueless Users Network Test System, an intelligence test for the ignorant and impolite.

You have been automatically added to this mailing list because you sent a subscription request like "UNSUB ME" out to the entire readership of a mailing list, instead of sending it to the list server or list maintainer.

There is nobody of worth reading this mailing list. The only way you can become unsubscribed is to figure out the standard way of unsubscribing from an Internet mailing list. Until that time, you will get these messages regularly.

If you made an innocent mistake in sending your "UNSUB ME" out to the entire list, then you will know how to unsubscribe from this list immediately and no harm will be done.

If, on the other hand, you simply have no clue how to deal with mailing lists, you'd better start reading up on the subject before you go blundering around again. Your attention is cordially drawn to the newsgroups news.announce.newusers, news.newusers.questions, and news.answers.

Final hint: the mailing list address is clueless@mantis.co.uk.

Have fun.

matthew

Date: 6 Jan 93 21:03:46 EST
From: psinntp!pbs.org!jernandez@uunet.uu.net
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <1ic7vjINNjg9@rave.larc.nasa.gov>, <rrgd50-050193130047@222.5.80.3>, <16B4DE52A.WEBBG@wsuvm1.csc.wsu.edu>
Subject : Re:Use of microwave oven as an amateur transmitter

In article <16B4DE52A.WEBBG@wsuvm1.csc.wsu.edu>, WEBBG@wsuvm1.csc.wsu.edu writes:
> In article <rrgd50-050193130047@222.5.80.3>
> rrgd50@email.sps.mot.com (Chris Terwilliger) writes:
>
>>
>>by the way...has anyone ever used tried to modulate old oven parts???

>>Seems like a good project for someone with an oven they don't use any
>>more...

>>

>

> I've thought about doing this. Anyone know what this would involve?

>

```
> +-----+-----+
> | Geoffrey Webb  N7ZRR                | Internet: webbg@wsuvm1.csc.wsu.edu |
> | Systems Analyst/Programmer II        | Bitnet:  webbg@wsuvm1             |
> | Washington State University          | Ampnet:  n7zrr@AA7GV.##wa.ampr    |
> | Pullman WA 99163                    | Phone:   (509) 335-4213           |
> +-----+-----+
```

Date: 7 Jan 1993 05:32:54 GMT
From: ucsd.edu!brian@network.UCSD.EDU
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <1iddd6INNhfi@tamsun.tamu.edu>, <1idghsINN1pa@transfer.stratus.com>,
<8355@lib.tmc.edu>
Subject : Re: Closed repeaters

Jay, you're from Texas; you know that the best way to handle assbites
like these is to shoot them. Cheaper, too.

For the rest of us:

This argument has once again gotten beyond reason; either take it to
the street or shut up.

- Brian

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #31
